

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A rigid modular container comprising:

5 a floor, opposite rigid rectilinearly-shaped first and second panels, and oppositely disposed rigid rectilinearly-shaped third and fourth panels extending from and between said first and second panels, said panels mounted to said floor and having opposite side edges, said side edges of said third and fourth panels abutting said side edges of said first and second panels, fastener bracing means mounted to said side edges of said
10 panels and aligned between adjacent said panels, said fastener bracing means having fastener receiving apertures therethrough for rigid bracing, of rigid fasteners mounted through and between said fastener bracing means on said adjacent panels, rigid fasteners mounted through said fastener bracing means on said adjacent said panels, said fastener bracing means on said first and second panels being mounted on outside
15 surfaces thereof, said fastener bracing means on said third and fourth panels being mounted on inside surfaces thereof.

2. The rigid modular container of claim 1 wherein said first and second panels, and said third and fourth panels extending between said first and second panels form a generally
20 rectangular parallelepiped, and wherein said fastener bracing means comprises a first panel hollow reinforcing member and a second panel hollow reinforcing member mounted across, and on an outer surface of, said first and second panels respectively so as to extend from said opposite side edges of each said first and second panels, each end of each said reinforcing member having, mounted in parallel across said each end,
25 a first reinforcing insert and a rigid end enclosure so that said each end is a reinforced end, and wherein, on said third and fourth panels, said fastener bracing means comprising third and fourth panel hollow reinforcing members mounted across said third and fourth panels respectively, each said third and fourth panel hollow reinforcing members mounted on an inner surface of said third and fourth panels respectively, each

of said third and fourth panels having rigid flanges formed along opposite side edges thereof, said rigid flanges extending orthogonally relative to said third and fourth panels inwardly into said container, ends of said third and fourth panel hollow reinforcing members adjacent corresponding said rigid flanges, second reinforcing inserts mounted in each said end of said third and fourth panel hollow reinforcing members, said reinforcing members aligned so as to horizontally align said fastener receiving apertures formed through each said first and second panel hollow reinforcing member, said first and second panels, said rigid flanges and each said second reinforcing inserts.

3. The container of claim 2 wherein said reinforcing members are mounted along an upper end of said panels.

4. The container of claim 3 wherein said reinforcing members are mounted continuously along uppermost edges of said panels so as to contiguously strengthen an upper opening of said container defined by said upper edges of said panels.

5. The container of claim 3 wherein said reinforcing members are channels rigidly mounted along their edges to said panels.

6. The container of claim 5 wherein said first and second panels are, respectively, front and back panels and said third and fourth panels are side panels, said side panels further comprising a parallel pair of fork-receiving rigid pockets mounted horizontally to said side panels for receiving therein the forks of a front-load truck.

7. The container of claim 2 wherein said first and second panels each further include a lip extending along each said side edge of said first and second panels so as to overlap an outer surface of said side edges of said third and fourth panels, and wherein each said lip has at least one fastener aperture therein and said third and fourth panels have

corresponding fastener apertures therein aligning with said fastener apertures in each said lip, second fasteners mounted therethrough.

5 8. The container of claims 1 and 7 wherein said fastener apertures are bolt holes and wherein said fasteners are bolts, said bolt holes sized to snugly receive said bolts journalled therethrough.

9. The container of claim 1 wherein said floor is planar and has at least one stiffening rib there-across.

10 10. The container of claim 9 wherein said floor has a circumferentially extending upstanding rim around a circumference of said floor in overlapped mating with lowermost edges of said panels.

15 11. The container of claim 10 wherein said rim is fastened by fasteners to said lowermost edges.

12. The container of claim 1 wherein said first and second panels are of a constant and equal first size, and wherein said third and fourth panels are of an equal second size,
20 and wherein said second size of said third and fourth panels is varied to vary the volume of said container.

13. A rigid modular container kit comprising:

25 an oppositely mountable floor and lid, oppositely mountable rigid rectilinearly-shaped first and second panels, and oppositely mountable rigid rectilinearly-shaped third and fourth panels extending from and between said first and second panels, said panels mountable to said floor, said panels having opposite side edges, said side edges of said third and fourth panels mountable so as to abut said side edges of said first and second

panels, fastener bracing means mounted to said side edges of said panels and alignable between adjacent said panels when said panels are mounted to said floor, said fastener bracing means having fastener receiving apertures therethrough for rigid bracing of rigid fasteners mounted through and between said fastener bracing means on said adjacent panels, rigid fasteners mounted through said fastener bracing means on said adjacent said panels, said fastener bracing means on said first and second panels being mounted on outside surfaces thereof and said fastener bracing means on said third and fourth panels being mounted on inside surfaces thereof when said panels are mounted to each other.

14. The rigid modular container of claim 13 wherein said panels when mounted to each other form a generally rectangular parallelepiped, and wherein said fastener bracing means comprises a first panel hollow reinforcing member and a second panel hollow reinforcing member mounted across, and on an outer surface of, said first and second panels respectively so as to extend from said opposite side edges of each said first and second panels, each end of each said reinforcing member having, mounted in parallel across said each end, a first reinforcing insert and a rigid end enclosure so that said each end is a reinforced end, and wherein, on said third and fourth panels, said fastener bracing means comprising third and fourth panel hollow reinforcing members mounted across said third and fourth panels respectively, each said third and fourth panel hollow reinforcing members mounted on an inner surface of said third and fourth panels respectively, each of said third and fourth panels having rigid flanges formed along opposite side edges thereof, said rigid flanges extending orthogonally relative to said third and fourth panels inwardly into said container when said panels are mounted to each other, ends of said third and fourth panel hollow reinforcing members adjacent corresponding said rigid flanges, second reinforcing inserts mounted in each said end of said third and fourth panel hollow reinforcing members, said reinforcing members aligned so as to horizontally align said fastener receiving apertures formed through

each said first and second panel hollow reinforcing member, said first and second panels, said rigid flanges and each said second reinforcing inserts.

5 15. The container of claim 14 wherein said reinforcing members are mounted along an upper end of said panels.

10 16. The container of claim 15 wherein said reinforcing members are mounted continuously along uppermost edges of said panels so as to contiguously strengthen an upper opening of said container defined by said upper edges of said panels when said panels are mounted to each other.

17. The container of claim 15 wherein said reinforcing members are channels rigidly mounted along their edges to said panels.

15 18. The container of claim 17 wherein said first and second panels are, respectively, front and back panels and said third and fourth panels are side panels, said side panels further comprising a parallel pair of fork-receiving rigid pockets mounted horizontally to said side panels for receiving therein the forks of a front-load truck.

20 19. The container of claim 14 wherein said first and second panels each further include a lip extending along each said side edge of said first and second panels so as to overlap an outer surface of said side edges of said third and fourth panels when said panels are mounted to each other, and wherein each said lip has at least one fastener aperture therein and said third and fourth panels have corresponding fastener apertures therein
25 aligning with said fastener apertures in each said lip, second fasteners mountable therethrough.

20. The container of claims 13 and 19 wherein said fastener apertures are bolt holes and wherein said fasteners are bolts, said bolt holes sized to snugly receive said bolts journalled therethrough.
- 5 21. The container of claim 13 wherein said floor is planar and has at least one stiffening rib there-across.
22. The container of claim 21 wherein said floor has a circumferentially extending upstanding rim around a circumference of said floor for overlapped mating with
10 lowermost edges of said panels.
23. The container of claim 22 wherein said rim is fastened by fasteners to said lowermost edges.
- 15 24. The container of claim 13 wherein said first and second panels are of a constant and equal first size, and wherein said third and fourth panels are of an equal second size, and wherein said second size of said third and fourth panels is varied to vary the volume of said container when said panels are mounted to each other.
- 20 25. The container of claim 1 further comprising a pair of rigid wedge-shaped extensions mounted onto upper edges of one pair of said oppositely mounted panels, and a lid mounted on hinge means to an upper edge of the other pair of said oppositely mountable panels so that, when said lid is pivoted on said hinge means to a closed position over said container, a front edge of said lid defines an open horizontal slot.
- 25 26. The container of claim 25 further comprising releasable locking means for lockably closing said lid down onto said extensions.

27. The container of claim 1 further comprising a pair of rigid wedge-shaped extensions mounted onto upper edges of third and fourth panels, and a lid mounted on hinge means to an upper edge of said first panel so that, when said lid is pivoted on said hinge means to a closed position over said container a front edge of said lid and a corresponding upper edge of said second panel define a forwardly disposed slot.
28. The container of claim 27 further comprising releasable locking means for lockably closing said lid down onto said extensions.
29. The container kit of claim 13 further comprising a pair of rigid wedge-shaped extensions mountable onto upper edges of one pair of said oppositely mountable panels, and a lid mountable on hinge means to an upper edge of the other pair of said oppositely mountable panels so that, when said lid is pivoted on said hinge means to a closed position over said container, once assembled, a front edge of said lid defines an open horizontal slot.
30. The container of claim 29 further comprising releasable locking means for lockably closing said lid down onto said extensions.
31. The container kit of claim 13 further comprising a pair of rigid wedge-shaped extensions mountable onto upper edges so as to dispose narrow ends of said extensions towards said first panel of said third and fourth panels, and a lid mountable on hinge means to an upper edge of said first panel so that, when said lid is pivoted on said hinge means to a closed position over said container, once assembled, a front edge of said lid and a corresponding upper edge of said second panel define a forwardly disposed horizontal slot.
32. The container of claim 31 further comprising releasable locking means for lockably closing said lid down onto said extensions.